

Claims 1-30 are currently pending in the application. All claims stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

Clarification with respect to this rejection is requested. The Examiner suggests that "kit" claims relate to articles exclusive of any relationship between the articles. The applicant does not know where the Examiner finds basis for this rejection. As just one example, kits can be made up of, for example, two elements that are interchangeably operatively connected to a third element. The relationship between the articles is unquestionably given patentable weight.

To avoid any problem, the terminology "kit" has been removed from the claims. It is submitted, however, that the claims are identical in scope with this amendment made to the claims. Whatever the label is given to the securable enclosure, the interaction between the elements is clearly stated in the claims as originally presented. Accordingly, the interaction must be given patentable weight.

All claims stand alternatively rejected under 35 USC §102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,724,774 (Rooney).

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-30 is requested.

The rejection of the claims based on Rooney is not understood. Claim 1 characterizes the first connector part as fixedly attached to one of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel. The second connector part is fixedly attached to another one of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel. The first and second parts are connectable, each to the other. In Rooney, the allegedly

corresponding first connector 114 is not fixedly attached to any one of the panels which the Examiner has identified in Rooney. Instead, the element 114 is part of a bracket 106 which is separate from, and releasably attached to, a roof bracket 108, one of the side panels 15, and the bottom panel 14. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Rooney.

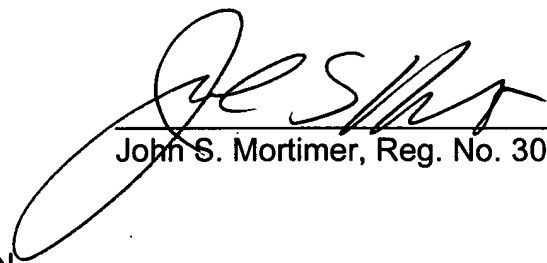
Applicant respectfully submits that Rooney is representative of prior art which is identified in the Information Disclosure Statement being submitted concurrently herewith, wherein separate fasteners are required to maintain panels in an assembled state to define an enclosure. The claimed invention obviates the need to use and align separate fasteners as in Rooney.

Claim 22 also recites first and second connector parts fixedly attached to panels that are connected together to bound a storage space.

Claims 2-21 and claims 23-30 depend cognately from claims 1 and 22, respectively, and recite further significant structural detail to further distinguish over the prior art.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-30 and allowance of the case are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mortimer, Reg. No. 30,407

WOOD, PHILLIPS, VANSANTEN,  
CLARK & MORTIMER  
500 W. Madison St., Suite 3800  
Chicago, IL 60661  
(312) 876-1800

Date: Oct 12, 2001

## MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

### IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-30 as follows:

1. (amended) A [kit for a] securable enclosure, the securable enclosure having a front opening and being placeable selectively in an assembled state and a disassembled state, said [kit] securable enclosure comprising:

a top panel;

first and second side panels;

a rear panel,

the top panel, first and second side panels, and rear panel being connected to each other to bound a storage space accessible through the front opening;

a first connector part fixedly attached to one of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel; and

a second connector part fixedly attached to another one of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel,

the first and second connector parts being connectable, each to the other, without any additional separate parts to maintain the one and the another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel together with the [kit] securable enclosure in the assembled state.

2. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 1 wherein the first connector part comprises a clip body and the second connector part comprises a repositionable lock hook that is releasably connectable to the clip body.

3. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 2 wherein the lock hook is accessible only through the front opening with the [kit] securable enclosure in the assembled state.

4. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 2 wherein the top panel is releasably connectable to each of the first and second side panels and rear panel through releasable cooperating connector parts with one of the releasable cooperating connector parts being fixedly attached to one of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel and another of the cooperating connector parts being fixed to another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel, the releasable cooperating connector parts being connectable, each to the other, without any additional separate parts.

5. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 1 wherein the [kit] securable enclosure further comprises a front frame panel for a closure element and the front frame panel is releasably connectable to at least one of the top panel, first side panel, and second side panel through releasable cooperating connector parts with one of the releasable cooperating connector parts being fixedly attached to one of the front frame panel, top panel, first side panel, and second side panel and another of the releasable cooperating connector parts being fixedly attached to another of the front frame panel, top panel, first side panel, and second side panel, the releasable cooperating connector parts being connectable, each to the other, without any additional separate parts.

6. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 5 further comprising a closure element that is mounted to the front frame panel for movement between a) an open position wherein the storage space can be accessed through the front opening and b) a closed position.

7. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 6 wherein with the closure element in the closed position, the cooperating connector parts cannot be accessed from outside of the storage space.

8. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 1 further comprising a bottom panel which is releasably connected to at least one of the first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel.

9. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 8 wherein the bottom panel is releasably connected to the at least one of the first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel through releasable cooperating connector parts with one of the cooperating connector parts being attached to the bottom panel and another of the connector parts being attached to the at least one of the first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel.

10. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 1 wherein the [kit] securable enclosure further comprises a bottom panel and a reinforcing rod that extends between the top panel and the bottom panel, the reinforcing rod being spaced from each of the first and second side panels and the rear panel.

11. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 1 wherein the one of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel has a substantially flat first surface and a first flange with a flat surface that is angularly disposed to the first surface, the another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel and rear panel has a substantially flat second surface and a second flange with a flat surface that is angularly disposed to the second surface, and with the [kit] securable enclosure in the assembled state, the flat surface on the first flange is facially abutted to the flat surface on the second flange.

12. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 11 wherein the first surface is substantially orthogonal to the second surface.

13. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 11 wherein the first and second connector parts biasably draw the flat surfaces on the first and second flanges against each other.

14. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 11 wherein the first and second flanges each have an opening therethrough to accommodate the first and second connector parts.

15. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 1 wherein the first and second connector parts are releasably, biasably held connected to each other.

16. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 1 wherein the first and second connector parts define a connector assembly, wherein the [kit] securable enclosure comprises a plurality of connector assemblies including at least one connector assembly that acts between each of a) the top panel and at least one of the first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel, b) the first side panel and at least one of the top panel and the rear panel, c) the second side panel and at least one of the top panel and the rear panel, and d) the rear panel and at least one of the top panel, the first side panel, and the second side panel.

17. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 16 wherein the plurality of connector assemblies maintain the top panel, first and second side panels, and rear panel together with the [kit] securable enclosure in the assembled state without any separate fasteners.

18. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 1 wherein a first of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel has a locating post thereon, and another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear

panel has a locating slot thereon to receive the locating post with the [kit] securable enclosure in the assembled state.

19. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 18 wherein the locating post is fixed on the first panel.

20. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 19 wherein the locating post comprises a neck with an enlarged head on the neck, the enlarged head is movable into the locating slot by moving the first panel in a first direction in a first line with the first and another panels in a first relative position, and the slot is configured so that with the enlarged head moved through the slot, shifting of the first panel relative to the another panel transverse to the first line to a second relative position causes the enlarged head to act against the another panel to thereby block movement of the enlarged head out of the slot by movement of the first panel parallel to the first line oppositely to the first direction.

21. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 20 further comprising a third connector part on the first panel and a fourth connector part on the another panel, the third and fourth connector parts being releasably connectable, each to the other to maintain the first and another panels in the second relative position.

22. A [kit for a] securable enclosure, said securable enclosure having a front opening and being placeable selectively in an assembled state and a disassembled state, said [kit] securable enclosure comprising:

- a plurality of panels that are connected together to bound a storage space accessible through the front opening,

- a first connector part fixedly attached to one of the panels; and

- a second connector part fixedly attached to another one of the panels,



the first and second connector parts being connectable, each to the other, without any additional separate parts to releasably maintain the one and the another panels together with the [kit] securable enclosure in the assembled state.

23. The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 22 wherein the first and second connector parts are releasably connected to each other.

24. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 22 wherein the one and the another of the panels have surfaces that are flat and substantially orthogonal to each other.

25. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 24 wherein the one panel has a first flange with a flat surface that is angularly disposed to the surface of the one panel, the another panel has a second flange with a flat surface that is angularly disposed to the surface of the another panel, and with the [kit] securable enclosure in the assembled state the flat surfaces on the first and second flanges are facially abutted to each other.

26. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 25 wherein the first connector part comprises a clip body and the second connector part comprises a repositionable lock hook that is releasably connectable to the clip body.

27. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 24 wherein the first and second connector parts are releasably biasably held connected to each other.

28. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 22 wherein a first of the panels has a locating post thereon and another of two panels has a locating slot thereon to receive the locating post with the [kit] securable enclosure in the assembled state.

29. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 28 wherein the locating post is fixed on the first panel.

30. (amended) The [kit for a] securable enclosure according to claim 29 wherein the locating post comprises a neck with an enlarged head on the neck, the enlarged head is movable into the locating slot by moving the first panel in a first direction in a first line with the first and another panels in a first relative position, and the slot is configured so that with the enlarged head moved through the slot, shifting of the first panel relative to the another panel transverse to the first line to a second relative position cause the enlarged head to act against the another panel to thereby block movement of the enlarged head out of the slot by movement of the first panel parallel to the first line oppositely to the first direction.